

BEST AVAILABLE COPY**REMARKS**

Claims 1, 4, 5, 9, 10, 14, 21 and 29 are amended; and claims 1-21 and 29-42 are pending in the application.

Claims 4, 5, 9, 14-21 and 29-42 are indicated to contain allowable subject matter, but stand objected to for various reasons. Claims 4, 5, 9 and 14 are amended to place the claims in independent form, and such amendments are believed to place claims 4, 5, 9 and 14 in condition for allowance. Claims 15-20 depend from claim 14, and are believed to be in condition for allowance for at least the reasons for which claim 14 is in condition for allowance. Claim 21 is amended to place the claim in independent form, and also to remove the term "approximately" from the claim, and such amendments are believed to place claim 21 in condition for allowance. Claim 29 is amended to replace the term "first masking layer" with the term -- masking layer -- to correct typographical errors within the claim, and such amendments are believed to place claim 29 in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-3, 6-8 and 10-13 stand rejected as being anticipated by Shih. Independent claims 1 and 10 are amended to specify that a recited masking layer is entirely of a single uniform composition. Such amendments are supported by the originally-filed application at, for example, figure 1 and the text of paragraph 0039, which show and disclose that a masking layer 18 can be of a single uniform composition. The amended claims are allowable over the cited reference of Shih for at least the reason that the "masking layer" of such reference that the Examiner contends is analogous to that of claims 1 and 10 is, in fact, three layers of differing composition (specifically, layers 24, 26 and 28). Accordingly, the reference does not show or suggest the subject matter of amended claims 1 and 10 of

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a recited masking layer which is entirely of a single uniform composition utilized in the recited sequences of claims 1 and 10.

Claims 2-3, 6-8 and 11-13 depend from claims 1 and 10, and are therefore allowable for at least the reasons which amended claims 1 and 10 are allowable.

Pending claims 1-21 and 29-42 are allowable for the reasons discussed above, and applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner's next action be a Notice of Allowance formally allowing all of the pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: 

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